

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 903
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1647

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, TU
SUBJECT: TURKISH VIEW ON LOS INTERSESSIONAL IN NEW YORK

REF: A) ANKARA 976, B) STATE 50284

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF OF FEBRUARY 6-17 LAW OF THE
SEA (LOS) INTERSESSIONAL MEETING IN NEW YORK, MFA
SECTION CHIEF FOR LOS SUHA UMAR, WHO HAD ATTENDED THE
MEETING, CHARACTERIZED THE MEETING VERY NEGATIVELY AND
EXPRESSED PESSIMISM OVER THE PROSPECTS FOR THE SEVENTH
SESSION OF THE LOS CONFERENCE. UMAR SAID THIS PESSIMISM
APPLIED TOWARD BOTH PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES.
THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING HAD BEEN MARKED BY INCREASED
RIGIDITY OF PARTICIPANTS' STANCES; BOTH IN THE PLENARY
AND THE COMMITTEE OF 31, HE HAD NOTED THAT DELEGATES
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WERE RESTATING THEIR ORIGINAL, WELL-KNOWN POSITIONS
RATHER THAN SEEKING COMPROMISE. THE SEVENTH SESSION,
HE REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES, WILL BE "VERY DIFFICULT".

2. UMAR EXPRESSED THE CONCERN THAT MOST OF THE SEVENTH
SESSION WOULD BE WASTED ON PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS,
NOTABLY ON THE QUESTION OF WHO WOULD BE CONFERENCE PRESIDENT,

UNLESS AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED INFORMALLY BEFORE THE CONFERENCE RE-OPENS. WHILE STATING THAT THE TRUE REASON FOR THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP'S OPPOSITION TO THE CONTINUATION OF AMERASINGHE AS PRESIDENT IS NOT CLEAR, HE SAID IT WAS OBVIOUSLY NOT BASED ON THEIR LEGALISTIC PRETEXT THAT ONLY A PLENIPOTENTIARY COULD PRESIDE OVER PLENIPOTENTIARIES. HE SPECULATED THAT THE BASIC REASON WAS AMERASINGHE'S ATTEMPTS TO HAVE THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES (DEEP-SEABED MINING AND LANDLOCKED/GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED STATES' -- LL/GDS -- ACCESS TO ESOURCES) HANDLED IN THE PLENARY AND THUS TO WEAKEN THE INFLUENCE OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN NOTABLY LATIN AMERICAN COASTAL STATE HARDLINER AGUILAR. (UMAR THOUGHT THAT THIS PROCEDURAL ISSUE IN ITSELF THREATENED TO CONSUME MUCH OF THE SEVENTH SESSION.) UMAR NOTED THAT SRI LANKA IS TOTALLY OPPOSED TO REAPPOINTING AMERASINGHE AS ITS REPRESENTATIVE AND SAID HE DID NOT KNOW IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR ANY OTHER STATE TO APPOINT HIM AS ITS PLENIPOTENTIARY TO GET AROUND THE LATIN OBJECTION.

3. BECAUSE OF THE CARACAS "GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT" THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD BE AN ASIAN, UMAR FELT THAT THERE WOULD BE STRONG OPPOSITION IF THE LATINS THOUGHT THEY COULD ELECT A LATIN AMERICAN PRESIDENT, PARTICULARLY IF THEY HAD A COASTAL STATE REPRESENTATIVE IN MIND. AMONG THE ASIANS, KOH (SINGAPORE) AND NANDAN (FIJI) WERE MOST OFTEN MENTIONED AS A POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT FOR

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AMERASINGHE, BUT KOH WOULD BE A VERY CONTROVERSIAL CANDIDATE DUE TO HIS EXTREME IDENTIFICATION WITH THE DEMANDS OF THE LL/GDS.

4. UMAR SAID THAT THE TURKS HAD TALKED TO EVENSEN ABOUT HIS PROPOSAL FOR COMPOSITION OF GOVERNING BODIES TO SUPERVISE DEEP-SEABED MINING (REF A), WHICH THEY FEEL WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF EXCLUDING TURKEY (ALONG WITH SWEDEN, GREECE, AND PORTUGAL) FROM EVER BECOMING MEMBERS. EVENSEN AGAIN EXPRESSED SYMPATHY BUT ASKED TURKS FOR PROPOSED REVISION RATHER THAN PRODUCING ONE HIMSELF. TURKS DO NOT HAVE A CONCRETE PROPOSAL, BUT FEEL THAT BEST SOLUTION WOULD INVOLVE ENLARGING MEMBERSHIP OF THE BODIES TO ABOUT 45 TO 50.

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